

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 27, 2006 has been received and considered. In this response, claims 35-41 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in the present application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

Allowability of Claims 1-34, 42 and 43

The Applicant notes with appreciation the indication at page 2 of the Office Action that claims 1-34, 42 and 43 are allowed.

Anticipation Rejection of Claims 35-41

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 35-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Artieri (U.S. Patent No. 6,104,751). Although Applicants disagree with the rejection, in the interest of advancing the application claims 35-41 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

The Applicants believe no additional fees are due, but if the Commissioner believes additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-0441.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date